(b) whether the cases of harassment and deaths due to dowry demands are on the rise in the city;

(c) the comparative figures of such cases during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to eliminate such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Delhi Police have during the current year (upto 28th July) registered 772 such cases.

(b) and (c) There has been a slight increase in the number of such cases as indicated below:

Year	Number of cases registered
2000	1145
2001	1341
2002	1413
2003 (upto 28th July)	772

(d) The steps taken by the Government to check crime against women include the strengthening of the Crime against Women Cell; setting up of Women Police Mobile Team to attend to distress calls from women; sensitisation of police personnel towards the problems of women and crime against them; deployment of extra staff at the girls/women institutions to keep a watch on suspicious persons and to inculcate a sense of security; setting up of Post Box No. 53333 to enable the women to send their complaints to the Crime against Women Cell; and installation of a women Help Line 1091 (toll free) telephone working round the clock to help the women in distress.

Persons challaned for giving alms at traffic intersections

1840. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have been challaned for giving alms to

the beggars and other persons at the traffic intersections of the Capital during the last six months, month-wise figures; and

(b) the action contemplated by Government to remove beggars and other alms seekers from the streets of the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The requisite information is given below:

Month	Number of persons challaned
January	163
February	201
March	173
April	73
May	982
June	197
Total:	1789

(b) The action taken by the Government to remove this menace includes constitution of an anti-begging squad for conducting raids at public places with a view to apprehend beggars and setting up of custodial institutions to wean them away from beggary and provide training, counselling and guidance to them.

Remarks of Amnesty International on minorities

1841. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Amnesty International alleged that the right of minorities in the country to live as equals, was being increasingly undermined;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons behind such a remark; and

(c) what was the response of the Ministry in this regard?